

# The National Endowment for the Arts Announces FY 2018 Grants to Support the Arts



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*Two Delaware organizations will receive \$20,000 in federal grants*

Wilmington, Del. (February 7, 2018) – Each year, more than 4,500 communities large and small throughout the United States benefit from National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) grants to nonprofits. For the NEA’s first of two major grant announcements of fiscal year 2018, more than \$25 million in grants across all artistic disciplines will be awarded to nonprofit organizations in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. These grants are for specific projects and range from performances and exhibitions, to healing arts and arts education programs, to festivals and artist residencies.

*“It is energizing to see the impact that the arts are making throughout the United States. These NEA-supported projects are good examples of how the arts build stronger and more vibrant communities, improve well-being, prepare our children to succeed, and increase the quality of our lives,” said NEA Chairman Jane Chu. “At the National Endowment for the Arts,*

*we believe that all people should have access to the joy, opportunities, and connections the arts bring.”*

**OperaDelaware** will receive an Art Works grant in the amount of \$10,000 to support new productions of Puccini’s “Il Trittico” (“The Triptych”) and composer Michael Ching’s “Buoso’s Ghost.”

*“We’re delighted that the NEA has chosen to support our work for the third season in a row,” said General Director, Brendan Cooke. “This grant will allow us to return to Wilmington’s Grand Opera House (which received a 2017 NEA Art Works grant) for the 2018 Spring Opera Festival which will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the premiere of Puccini’s “Il Trittico” (“The Triptych”) and feature seven one-act operas over two weekends.”*

For fiscal year 2018, the NEA will award 936 Art Works grants totaling more than \$24 million to organizations in 49 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

The **Wilmington Renaissance Corporation** will receive a Challenge America grant in the amount of \$10,000 to support the artist-led creation of a community public artwork.

*“To receive this recognition and award from the NEA is an honor,” said Dr. Carrie W. Gray, managing director of Wilmington Renaissance Corporation. “We truly believe that the arts are an engine for community and neighborhood development. This is at the core of our Creative District initiative. Thanks to the NEA’s help, we will be able to continue to provide access to arts and culture programming to neighborhoods that will benefit from it. We look forward to sharing the details of our project with everyone soon.”*

For fiscal year 2018, the NEA will award 138 Challenge America grants of \$10,000 each for a total of \$1.38 million to organizations in 42 states.

The full NEA grant descriptions follow:

### **Art Works**

Art Works is the NEA's largest funding category and supports projects that focus on the creation of art that meets the highest standards of excellence, public engagement with diverse and excellent art, lifelong learning in the arts, and/or the strengthening of communities through the arts.

### **Challenge America**

The Challenge America category features NEA support for projects that extend the reach of the arts to underserved populations—those whose opportunities to experience the arts are limited by geography, ethnicity, economics, or disability. A number of these grantees have a history of support in both the Challenge America and Art Works categories.

### **About the National Endowment for the Arts**

Established by Congress in 1965, the NEA is the independent federal agency whose funding and support gives Americans the opportunity to participate in the arts, exercise their imaginations, and develop their creative capacities. Through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector, the NEA supports arts learning, affirms and celebrates America's rich and diverse cultural heritage, and extends its work to promote equal access to the arts in every community across America. Visit [arts.gov](https://www.arts.gov) to learn more about NEA.

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The [Delaware Division of the Arts](#), a branch of the Delaware

Department of State, is dedicated to cultivating and supporting the arts to enhance the quality of life for all Delawareans. Together with its advisory body, the Delaware State Arts Council, the Division administers grants and programs that support arts programming, educate the public, increase awareness of the arts, and integrate the arts into all facets of Delaware life. For more information about the Delaware Division of the Arts, visit [arts.delaware.gov](http://arts.delaware.gov) or call 302-577-8278.

Banner image: 2016 production of Amleto (Hamlet), OperaDelaware

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